

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of December 6, 2004**

1. **Congratulations to Councilmember Williams!:** Bruce Williams was awarded the Washington Area Council of Governments' 2004 Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award on Wednesday. The award was given to him for his work on a number of major efforts of the Council of Governments, including: the COG Strategic Plan, the Regional Emergency Coordination Plan, Chesapeake Bay water quality initiatives, and the Institute for Regional Excellence. Bruce's participation with the Council of Governments keeps the profile of the City of Takoma Park high in an organization that is largely dominated by Fairfax County, Arlington County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Washington, D.C. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

2. **New County Council President:** Tom Perez, the Takoma Park/Silver Spring district representative on the Montgomery County Council, has been elected Council President for this coming year, serving until next December. At-large member George Leventhal, our other Takoma Park resident on the County Council, was elected Vice-President. The President presides over Council meetings, coordinates administrative activities for the Council, represents the Council in ceremonial functions, and is particularly influential during budget season. The Vice-President is usually considered the member to be President in the next term. It is wonderful to have our two Takoma Park members in these positions! (*Community & Government Liaison*)

3. **Long Branch Task Force Initiative (Ward 5):** Banners have gone up on light poles in the Long Branch commercial areas. The banners are teal with a design based on the facade of the Flower Theater. The Long Branch Task Force had asked that banners and other aesthetic improvements be made to help improve the appearance of the area and help attract and retain good businesses. A more permanent banner program will be developed, but in the meantime the County was able to have these banners made and installed. (*Community & Government Liaison*)

4. **Rental Housing and Rent Stabilization Review (City-wide):** A review of this year's rent reports shows that approximately 52 units have been removed from the rental housing market. Twelve of these units were converted to condominiums. An additional 8 units have been vacated and are in the process of being renovated for resale as condominiums. The remaining units were lost when the properties - typically smaller 2 and 3 unit buildings - were sold and converted to single family homes and when single family rentals were purchased by buyers who occupied the home as their primary residence. Approximately 38 new rental units - single family homes and condominium units - were licensed. None of the new rental properties are subject to rent stabilization as the owners do not own more than a single rental unit in Takoma Park. In summary, roughly 52 rent stabilized rental units were removed from the rental market this year. Thirty-eight of the units were replaced with market rate rentals. Fourteen of the units were not replaced. (*Housing and Community Development*)

5. **East Hampshire Center (Ward 3):** The Montgomery County Planning Board voted in favor of the reconsideration request that had been made by the City. This action voids the preliminary plan extension that had been granted to Maisel-Hollins Development Company. The Planning Board will schedule a new hearing to consider the developer's request for a preliminary plan extension. The City has not yet been informed when this hearing will take place. *(Housing and Community Development)*
6. **Leaf Season (All Wards):** Even though the leaf season ended Friday, December 10, 2004, Public Works will maintain at least two trucks rigged for leaf collection to clean up the City. We will maintain this status until the end of December. Afterwards we will collect bagged leaves on yard waste days. *(Public Works)*
7. **Carroll Avenue Streetscape Project (Ward 1 & 3):** The City Arborist and the Carroll Avenue Streetscape project manager met with the Carroll Avenue residential community association to provide an update on the status of the project. The City Arborist discussed the trees that would be available to be planted in private front yards in order to increase the tree canopy adjacent to the sidewalk. The City is investigating options regarding the type, size, and style of signage that will be installed to designate and call out the new on-road bicycle facilities. *(Housing & Community Development)*
8. **MD 650/MD 193 Meeting for Takoma Langely Crossroads Pedestrian Safety Committee(Ward 6):** Housing and Community Development staff organized a cross jurisdictional walk through and discussion of pedestrian issues at University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenues. This meeting was the result of discussion held by the Takoma Langely Crossroads Pedestrian Safety Committee in December regarding the proposed median fence. Del. Peter Franchot and Sen. Gwendolyn Britt, who attended the December Pedestrian Safety Committee meeting, requested recommendations for alternative design solutions before the upcoming legislative session. Representatives from State Highway, Prince George's County Department of Public Works, and Prince George's County Executive's office participated in the walk through as did a community member, two reporters, and a City staff person. The results of this meeting and staff comments from the City and Montgomery MNCPPC will be used by the Pedestrian Safety Committee to develop recommendations for Del. Franchot and Sen. Britt. *(Housing & Community Development)*
9. **Officers in Training:** Six officers attended a two-day Verbal Judo (de-escalation of altercation through verbal means) class at the Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy; participation funded in part by a grant from LGIT. On Tuesday and Thursday next week the second session of mandatory in-service training for sworn officers will be held. *(Police)*
10. **Weed and Seed Grant (Ward 5):** The final installment of the Weed and Seed grant has been received. Approximately \$10,000 was used for overtime patrol, LIDAR speed enforcement on Flower Avenue, and night-vision equipment for canine units in the W4 sector. *(Police)*

11. **Chief in Training:** Chief Creamer and John Brill staff attended grant re-application training for that program in Towson. Chief Creamer addressed a group of 60 probationers at the first C-SAFE Opportunities Fair. *(Police)*

12. **Officers in Meetings (All Wards):** Det. Webb attended the multi-jurisdictional meeting on robbery at the U.S. Attorney's Office, involving the District and two counties. On Dec. 9, W Sector Specialist Conrad attend the Longbranch Business Task Force meeting with Ofc. Fields (in training). (Ward 5) She hosted the Maple Ave Manager's meeting also attended by Ofc. Fields, Det. Webb, and Sgt. Gilbert (Ward 4). Parking lot safety tips brochures were provided to the resident managers for distribution to residents and discussion of new lighting in one apartment complex. The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 17th, 2005, and all apartment managers are invited to attend (All Wards). *(Police)*

13. **Crime Blotter (Ward 6):** A strong suspect has been identified in the Nov. 23 evening robbery at an ATM in the 1100 block of University Avenue. A warrant is being sought. *(Police)*

14. **Officer in the Military:** Cpl. Tyrone Collington advised that his call-up for full-time military activation has been rescinded; he will report for duty, with his assigned team (Team 2), on Mon. Dec. 13, for his regular night shift. *(Police)*